

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 11735 271516Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 271339Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6452

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 11735

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: BEXP VE

SUBJ: CARCAS SUBWAY PROJECT

REF: A CARACAS 7003, B STATE 256166

1. NO DECISION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED ON CARACAS SUBWAY PROJECT. IN RECENT PRESS STATEMENT MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS STATED CARCAS TRAFFIC PROBLEM HAD NO SOLUTION; MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS STATED HE WAS ACTIVELY PLANNING SUBWAY AND THAT DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE END OF CALENDAR YEAR 1974; AND MINISTER OF CORDIPLAN STATED SUBWAY WOULD BE ONLY PARTIAL SOLUTION WHICH MUST BE COUPLED WITH MIGRATION OF PART OF CARACAS'S POPULATION TO AREAS IN THE INTERIOR OF VENEZUELA.

2. THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS IS NOW STUDYING SUBWAY DESIGN PROPOSALS, BUT ACCORDING TO VENEZUELAN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ROADS WHOM WE INTERVIEWED ON THE SUBJECT, IT IS PRESIDENT PEREZ WHO WILL MAKE DECISION AND HE HAS NOT DONE SO AS YET.

3. AN ADDITIONAL PRESS REPORT OF NOV 22 STATES THAT THE VENEZUELAN SENATE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO SUGGEST TO PRESIDENT PEREZ THAT A METRO BE CONSTRUCTED FOR CARACAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. WELL AWARE OF THE ENORMOUS COSTS INVOLVED IN TUNNELING, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS IS REVIEWING THE METRO DESIGN TO MAXIMIZE ABOVE-GROUND CONSTRUCTION.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 11735 271516Z

5. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED

UNTIL EARLY 1975. END COMMENT.

MCCLINTOCK

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Disposition Authority: boyleja
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